

From: Stan
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 2:34pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hi,

The government doesn't allow privatization of roads and other infrastructure elements because it allows a corporation to control other like markets, like Ford Motors owning all of the freeways and then creating some new "better tires" that work so much better on their roads. This is no different than Microsoft. They own and control the operating system infrastructure and then can provide highly specialized software that locks in the customer. But worse, software developers who are competing with Microsoft and also those just developing on the Microsoft platform cannot compete because Microsoft can obfuscate the behavior of the operating system and services above it until they produce a competing product.

Does Microsoft add proprietary extensions to standards ? Yes.
(Kerberos)

Does Microsoft change their operating system behavior and does not properly document it ? Yes. (Dr. Dos)

Does Microsoft keep data formats proprietary ? Yes (Microsoft Word)

The solution is to split development of the operating system and core pieces from application development.
Development of the operating and core pieces is then overseen by a government body.

-Stan